

SELECTIONS  
FROM THE  
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND  
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 7th November, 1870.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Majma-ul-Bahrain* of the 27th October, under the heading *Benares*, states that fever and small-pox prevail in the city, and that thefts and assaults have increased in number. It is added that the Income-tax is oppressive to the people in a variety of ways. It is too heavy for them to bear, and, to crown their distress, the usual notice reaches them too late, which results in their being unjustly fined. This state of things is due to the want of separate *muharrirs* for conducting the duty of issuing the notices. The Local Government has sanctioned the employment of two such officials; but for economy's sake, these have not been entertained, the duty having been entrusted to the *Tehseel amlah*.

The *Naiyir-i-Akhabár* of the same date, reports a movement of the Wahabís at Budaon. They have given out that it is unlawful to serve the English, and that all who do so will be doomed to perdition. They avow that to receive instruction in English schools is detrimental to faith and at variance with the Mahomedan Law, and some students have been imposed upon by their artful insinuations. Strange people! They can never sit quiet, but are devising mischief every day.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 28th October, has an article on the question of an expedition to China. It is remarked that if Government intends to send Native troops to China to put a stop to the tyrannies the Chinese are now exercising



over the Christians and other foreigners residing in their country, it is proper for it, before taking such a step, to change the muskets now used by Native troops, which carry up to 300 paces only, for rifles which throw balls to a distance of 1,200 paces, seeing that the Chinese have Snider rifles with a range up to 1,500 paces.

It is also necessary to postpone the expedition for four months, the China seas being very stormy at this season, thereby giving room to fear the probability of the ships carrying the expedition being destroyed. It is also worth while to remember that in the north of China cold is so excessive that Hindustánis will not be able to bear its severity. At all events, therefore, the undertaking should commence in the hot season.

The same paper learns from the *Mofussilite* that many respectable gentlemen at Bombay are now arrested by means of warrants from the Magistrate's Court, and that great alarm has been caused thereby in the city.

It is also stated on the authority of the same paper, that Dr. May, who was sent to Nynee Tal, by order of the Government of India, to examine the place, has reported the existence of fifty sulphur springs beneath the lake, and that in one or two years more Nynee Tal will not be a fit place of residence.

In its column of local news, the same paper remarks that the grain market and the *Ganj* were not illuminated this year, on the occasion of the Diváli festival, because the people wished in this way to shew their dislike to the octroi tax.

A correspondent of the *Panjabi Akhbár* of the same date complains of the decrease in the number of daily papers for perusal in the *Anjuman-i-Punjab*, and of the loss which is much felt by poor persons who derived benefit from them. Such newspapers as the *Indian Public Opinion*, the *Evening Mail*, and others, are not to be seen, and those which are to be found on the table are the issues of the last month.

The writer supposes that the editors of the *Humá-i Punjáb* keep all the newspapers for their own perusal, and suggests that



they should take in private copies for their own use, instead of appropriating the public copies which belong to the Society.

The same paper refers to the opinion lately expressed by a correspondent of the *Pioneer*, that, after the decease of the Nawab Nazim of Moorshedabad, the salute given to him should not be continued to his sons, and to the remarks of the *Englishman* that it is useless to waste gunpowder, to the value of thousands of rupees, in salutes to Indian Chiefs and Princes; such childish ceremonies ill-becoming a country like India, which, being subject to England, should loose no time in imitating her in her civilized practices, setting a value on things of real moment rather than on splendid trifles. In England a piece of ribbon, bestowed as a reward for some service, is as much appreciated as a robe of honor. In India, such a distinction is looked down upon as worthless; show and splendour being the chief concern of the people. There are some who set such a high value on a salute of guns, that, were they asked to choose between the title of *Star of India*, and an addition of two guns to their salute, they would prefer the latter. With the English it is quite the reverse; to them a title of even an inferior order is worth more than a salute of a thousand guns.

The *Punjabi Akhbār*, in reviewing the above statement, observes that every country has some forms and customs peculiar to it. The practice of offering salutes has been sanctioned by long usage, and is esteemed as a mark of great honour. For this reason it is that Government has fixed the number of guns with regard to the rank of those entitled to the distinction. As to the fact that *Hindustanis* prefer an addition of a few guns to their salute to the title of *Star of India*, it is good to remember that the latter distinction, being one peculiar to a foreign country, does not raise the recipients in the estimation of their equals or those below them in rank. Had the distinction been one of long standing in this country, it would have been appreciated above a salute of guns. On the whole we have no objection to European civilization and ideas



about honour being imitated. What we mean is simply this, that viewing the trifling cost that is incurred in a salute, side by side with the vast sums squandered on other objects, it is not politic to call such a petty expense in question.

The same paper has an article on postal communication by means of cards. These cards are used to a considerable extent in Prussia and Austria, and were recently introduced in England, and other European countries. The Director-General of Post Offices for this country intends to introduce them here, and, with that object in view, wrote to the Secretary to the Post Office in London, in July last, making inquiries on the subject. He was informed that, in Prussia, the postage for letters and cards was the same, and that in England the price of such cards was three pie a piece, the postage stamps fixed to each being of that value.

The Director-General of Post Offices, on introducing the cards in India, proposes to charge a postage of four pie on each, and in order that the income of the Postal Department may not be affected intends to raise the postage on letters from six to eight pie.

The *Punjabi Akhbār* is of opinion that if four pie is fixed as the postage on cards, the people will gain nothing by the new arrangement, seeing that they will still have to pay two pice for a card, pies not being current among natives; and recommends that the rate be fixed at three pie.

A correspondent of the *Urdú Delhi Gazette* of the 29th October, complains that at Delhi the price of fish has risen to six annas per seer. In the beginning of March last, a tax was imposed on the unfortunate mullahs, which they contrived to pay with the greatest difficulty by raising subscriptions among themselves. This tax was enhanced in August, and consequently many of the mullahs have abandoned their calling. It is to be regretted that the Government should have imposed such a hard tax, and thus caused, for the last two months, a scarcity of this staple of food in a populous city like Delhi.



Another article in the same paper refers to the case of the notorious Wahábí, Maulaví Amír-ud-dín. It is stated that the Maulaví has been convicted of conspiring to raise a crusade (Jehád), and sentenced to transportation for life, and that the whole of his property has been confiscated. He has, however, lodged an appeal in the High Court at Calcutta, and as his pleader asserts that there are many grounds on which to base the appeal, the writer is of opinion that Government should nominate some able and well experienced advocate to defend the case.

In its column of local news, the same paper remarks that Colonel Bell's proposal to construct a railway bridge over the Jumna at Agra having now been sanctioned, and the work being about to commence, it is proper for the East India Railway Company no longer to postpone the erection of stations for passengers on this side of the river, a long time having now elapsed since the plans and estimates were prepared.

A correspondent of the *Khair Khwáh-i-Punjab*, of the 30th October, praises the superior manual skill of English mechanics and artizans, and regrets that Hindustánís are far behind them. The chief reason why the former have made amazing improvements in their respective arts is pointed out to be their acquaintance with the rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic, which enables them to compare their productions with those of other countries, by means of newspapers and drawings. With the Hindustánís the case is quite the reverse. They utterly neglect reading and writing, thinking those arts to be specially designed for those who intend to set up in life as *Muharrirs* and Moonshes. So far as practical skill is concerned they are not inferior to the workmen of England; but they need a knowledge of the progress made in developing the arts in other countries. The writer suggests the establishment of special professional schools for training persons in the several manual arts. He would have but one art taught at each school, and provide it with the finest specimens



of that art, as well as all the tools and implements required in it.

A Ghazeepore correspondent of the *Jalwa-i-Túr*, of the 31st October, reports the deaths of many people, from fever, in that city.

He also invites attention to the sinking of a ferry boat near Gola Ghat, and the destruction of all the passengers in it but two. This sad accident is stated to be due simply to the mismanagement of the ferry contractor.

A correspondent of the *Dabdaba-i-Sikandarí* of the same date, alluding to the distress to which the people of Jodhpore have been reduced by the famine of past years, and the prospects of a famine this year, asserts that, in order to relieve the people from the calamity, the Minister of that State is thinking of providing the country with a canal for purposes of irrigation. But, unfortunately, there is little hope of the plan being carried out, seeing that an undertaking of the kind will require a large sum of money, which the State cannot well afford.

Under the heading *Lucknow*, the same paper complains that the Lock Hospital Act has given opportunities to men of bad character to disgrace unprotected women of unspotted reputation.

Honest women are solicited, and if they refuse are reported to the Police as prostitutes. By suborning false witnesses, the case is proved against them, and they are brought on the register. One woman thus sentenced recently threw herself into a well in Golagunj, and it is apprehended that many such suicides will be attempted unless Government takes some measures to check the evil.

The same paper refers to the orders of the Government of India, under which the proposal to depose the Maharája of Alwar is to be postponed for the present, and a Council is to be appointed with Thákur Laghudhír Singh at its head ; and



remarks that the Thákur being one of the enemies of the State, and still bent on its ruin, is not a proper person, and that his appointment is likely to create disturbances.

In the writer's opinion, the Agent to the Governor-General is a fit person for being nominated to the trust, and there are strong hopes of a thorough reform being made in the administration by his salutary counsels.

#### POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Núr-ul-Absár*, of the 1st November, has an article entitled "Defeat and Victory." The writer begins with stating that, of two Sovereigns who wage war with one another, he who proves victorious is held high in the estimation of mankind, and especially so if he wins the victory by his bravery and by the employment of fair and lawful means. It cannot be denied that in war strategy is preferable to valour, but it is most proper that this should not outstep the right limits so as to border on fraud. Among the Arabs, it is true, the proverb *al harbu khudátun* (lit. war is fraud) is common enough; in other words, they think it lawful to employ stratagem in war, but that only in especial cases. For example, if a person possessing insufficient resources should have to deal with an adversary who is proud of his numbers and ample means, and cannot be moved to listen to any terms of peace, in this case it will be no disgrace to the former to resort to stratagems, as was done by Khush Nawáz, king of Hayátala, who, when he saw that king Fíroz Sásání had turned a deaf ear to his entreaties, and, unmindful of the treaty entered into with him, was resolved on his destruction, dug a pit, and covered it with thorns, and then fled in such a way that Fíroz Sásání and his nobles, who pursued him, fell into the trap and were made prisoners. The same was done by the enemies of Qáim Jang, Nawab of Furruckhabad, who, finding him unmoved by their supplications, hid themselves in ambush, whence they fired a volley at the leaders of his army, fifty-two in number, while they were marching on elephants



at the head of his forces, and killed them, and thus turned the tables against the Nawab. But allowable as such plans will appear under the circumstances, it will be borne in mind that the highest praise is alone due to him who, with odds of number against him, vanquishes the mighty host of his enemy in open field ; as was witnessed in the case of Nádir Shah, who, after his defeat by the Turks, met their forces, 1,20,000 in number, with an army of only 12,000 men, and routed them ; or in the case of the English, who, with a handful of troops, defeated Nawab Shuja-ud-daula's army in one quarter, and the Peshwa's in another.

The writer then goes on to consider the case of the Franco-Prussian War. From the statements in the newspapers, it appears that the Prussian king had made all the requisite preparations for the war beforehand, and then devised a plan which could not but lead the Emperor of France to open hostilities, and that, too, at a time when the French were disaffected to their sovereign.

Thus, when the war commenced, the Prussians were able to bring an immense army into the field, and had ample ammunition ready at hand, which it would otherwise have taken them long to collect. But this was not all. The Prussian Emperor employed a still more cunning stratagem. He issued a proclamation to the French, declaring that his war was with the Emperor Napoleon, not with his subjects. This declaration, which was regarded by the French as a solemn promise, lulled their fears, and prevented them from using what exertions, notwithstanding their disaffection to their Emperor, they would have made in their country's cause, and determined them on leaving him to his own resources. The result was that though he had an army of 100,000 men under his command, no ammunition was forthcoming. Accordingly, rather than suffer his men to be cut to pieces, he surrendered himself to the enemy. The writer then comments upon the use of the sword as a weapon in



war, and regrets that the Europeans should have so far habituated themselves to fight with guns and muskets as wholly to have neglected to practise the exercise of an arm which, at the crisis to which he refers, would have saved so numerous an army from falling an easy prey into the hands of the enemy.

After this brilliant victory, the Prussians did not fulfil the promise conveyed in the proclamation above referred to, and, to judge from appearances, there is no probability of their doing so now. On the other hand, they are besieging Paris with great vigour.

The above facts clearly shew that, notwithstanding the possession of an immense army and ample military stores, the Prussians gained the victory rather by the use of stratagem and artifice, than by arms and valour. If men's names were an index to their character, then is Count \*Bismark rightly named.

In concluding the article, the writer quotes a story from the *Rauzat-us-safá*, concerning the fulfilment of one's promise, to which allusion has been made above. Isma'il Bin-i-Ahmad Sásání, after capturing Amrú Lais, one of the kings of the Saffáriyán, besieged the city of Herat, where he was told the monarch's treasures were. The inhabitants asked quarter, which the king gave, with a solemn promise of keeping his word. He entered the city, but not finding the treasure, was advised by his viziers to levy Rs. 2 per head from the wealthy citizens, numbering one lakh, to cover the expenses of the war. The king strongly objected to the proposal, and severely reprimanded his viziers for tempting him to violate his engagement. The result of his keeping his faith was that he soon after found the desired treasure in a pit in a desert, which proved to be an enormous sum.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 28th October, has a leader in which the writer suggests the propriety of Prussia making

---

\* The writer probably plays on the word "Bish" on "bik," vulgarly "Bis," which means poison.



peace with France. It is remarked that the war waging between the two countries, attentively considered, will seem to be scarcely inferior to the campaign of the *Mahábhárat* in the Hindu classics, in which hundreds of thousands of men were killed, and numbers of them taken prisoners. The Prussians will now do good to abide by the advice of Her Majesty the Queen of England, and make peace with France, on condition of receiving from them the costs of the war, an agreement being signed by the two nations, on the surety of Her Majesty, to refrain from an aggression in future, on pain, if either of them break its engagement, of Her Majesty and the Czar uniting against it. But in order to come to terms, it is necessary that the Prussians should give up their demand for the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine, for the French will be the last people to surrender a foot of land.

Apart from other considerations, it is also good for the Prussians to think that the cold season has now approached, and that the inclemency of the French climate is likely to prove injurious to the Prussians in France. It is also reasonable to expect that in a state of despair the French will fight to the utmost, and will not fall an easy prey in their hands.

Then there will be a difficulty in getting provisions. They must be drawn from Germany, and will probably be plundered on the way. The Prussians should speedily make peace.

#### EDUCATIONAL.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 28th October, reports that a school is being built in Kathiyawar for the benefit of the sons of Hindustání Chiefs and Princes, and will probably be opened for their admission on the 1st of December next.

A correspondent of the *Riyáz-i-Núr* of the 29th October, in giving an account of the advent of the Viceroy to Jaipore, notices his visit to the Anglo-Vernacular School there, the grant by him of a gold medal to each of the four students



who had passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University at the Agra College, and a promise of books to the value of Rs. 1,000, to be distributed in prizes among the rest of the school-boys.

The *Dabdaba-i-Sikandari*, of the 31st October, in a long article, states that the great fault in the educational system established by the Government for the benefit of its subjects, is that the useful sciences and the practical arts of life which people in general chiefly care to learn as being best calculated to supply their immediate wants and open ready resources for gaining a livelihood, do not form part of the instruction imparted at the schools and colleges. Viewing things in this light, it will not be presuming too much to assert that the training afforded to prisoners in Government jails answers a more useful end than the schoolmaster's instructions in literary lore. Convicts in jails produce works of art which bring in money sufficient not only to cover the cost of their maintenance and the establishments kept up, but to leave a surplus.

To remove this crying defect from the system, and make their schools widely popular and inviting to the public at large, therefore, it is proper for Government to teach the European sciences, and the practical and industrial arts of life, side by side with the other branches of learning. For instance, boys in Halqábandi schools should be taught, besides the usual curriculum of studies, the agricultural arts which have been so far developed in Europe, the use of steam-engines, and such other arts as are likely to prove of practical utility to them. So also schools in large cities and towns should impart training in workmanship and other mechanical arts of a high order, so that, after completing their educational career, students may not be obliged to depend wholly on mere book lore for bread, and wander about in search of employment. In fact, if that course be adopted, India will soon emerge from its state of misery and wretchedness, and poverty and destitution will bid an everlasting farewell to the land, while schools and colleges will in



time command a handsome income, which will go a great way towards relieving Government from a large portion of the costs of maintenance of educational institutions, which now exclusively fall on it.

Similarly, Normal Schools can be made more useful if the masters now appointed to them, and who, as a rule, are well paid, be replaced by new instructors from England, who, besides scholastic attainments, are well versed in the arts of agriculture, and the science of mechanics, and could thus impart useful knowledge to the village teachers prepared at these institutions. In fact, it will do much good if the rudimentary principles of agriculture be impressed on their minds by actual experiments, *e. g.*, by teaching them the different methods of sowing on European principles. Such initiatory steps will considerably facilitate the development of the arts of agriculture in India.

The *Samai Binod*, of the 1st November, notices the examination, on the 15th October, of the Medical School for the training of nurses at Nynee Tal, by Doctors S. Clark, Inspector-General of Prisons, North-Western Provinces; A. Tomkyns, Superintendent, Bareilly Jail; and H. Smith, Civil Surgeon, Nynee Tal. The pupils passed a very creditable examination, and four women and one man received certificates of qualifications, entitling them to practise as Native Doctors of the third class.

The *Ab-i-Hayát-i-Hind*, of the same date, notices the visit of Mrs. Graves, Inspectress of Female Schools, North-Western Provinces, to the Female Schools at Agra, her satisfaction with the progress made by the examinees, and the advice given by her on the occasion.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Rajpútána Social Science Congress*, of the 21st October, gives an account of the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy to Jaipore, and notices the laying of the foundation-stone of an asylum for the sick and the blind by him, near the Sanganer



Darwáza, at the request of the Mahárája. His Highness had long had at heart the erection of this asylum, and had deferred the project because it was his wish to see the foundation-stone of the building laid by His Excellency.

The *Márwár Gazette*, of the 24th October, notices the expenditure of Rs. 25,000, by a banker at Ajmere, in illuminating the Avá Sagar Lake, in honour of the Viceroy's arrival in that city, and remarks that, instead of wasting this vast sum in it, it were better had the banker employed it in some work of lasting good. But since the authorities like to be flattered in this way, they permit such useless displays.

---



The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, viz. :—

No.	NAME.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE.	WHEN RECEIVED.
			1870.	1870.
1	Gwalior Gazette, ...	Gwalior, ...	Octr. 16th	Novr. 2nd
2	Rajpūtāna Social Science Congress, ...	Jaipore, ...	" 21st	" 1st
3	Meerut Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	" 22nd	" 5th
4	Gwalior Gazette, ...	Gwalior, ...	" 23rd	" 2nd
5	Mārwar Gazette, ...	Jodhpore, ...	" 24th	" 1st
6	Akmal-ul-Akhhār, ...	Delhi, ...	" 26th	" 1st
7	Mālwa Akhhār, ...	Indour, ...	" 26th	" 6th
8	Benares Akhhār, ...	Benares, ...	" 27th	" 1st
9	Akhhār-i-Alam, ...	Meerut, ...	" 27th	" 1st
10	Naiyir-i-Akhhār, ...	Bijnour, ...	" 27th	" 2nd
11	Mufid-ul-Anām, ...	Futtehgurh, ...	" 27th	" 5th
12	Majma-ul-Bahrain, ...	Ludhiana, ...	" 27th	" 5th
13	Lawrence Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	" 28th	" 1st
14	Allygurh Institute Gazette, ...	Allygurh, ...	" 28th	" 1st
15	Rajpūtāna Social Science Congress, ...	Jaipore, ...	" 28th	" 5th
16	Urdū Delhi Gazette, ...	Agra, ...	" 29th	" 1st
17	Meerut Gazette, ...	Meerut, ...	" 29th	" 1st
18	Panjābī Akhhār, ...	Lahore, ...	" 29th	" 4th
19	Anjuman-i-Hind, ...	Lucknow, ...	" 29th	" 4th
20	Riyāz-i-Nūr-i-Hind, ...	Muradabad, ...	" 29th	" 4th
21	Khair Khwāh-i-Panjāb, ...	Gujaranwalla, ...	" 30th	" 1st
22	Agra Akhhār, ...	Agra, ...	" 30th	" 6th
23	Jagat Samāchār, ...	Meerut, ...	" 31st	" 1st
24	Kārnāmāh, ...	Lucknow, ...	" 31st	" 3rd
25	Jalwa-i-Tūr, ...	Meerut, ...	" 31st	" 4th
26	Matla-i-Nūr, ...	Cawnpore, ...	" 31st	" 6th
27	Dabdaba-i-Sikandari, ...	Rampore, ...	" 31st	" 6th
28	Nūr-ul-Absār, ...	Allahabad, ...	Novr. 1st	" 2nd
29	Samai-Binod, ...	Nynee Tal, ...	" 1st	" 5th
30	Akhhār-ul-Akhyār, ...	Muzafferpore, ...	" 1st	" 6th
31	Ab-i-Hayāt-i-Hind, ...	Agra, ...	" 1st	" 6th
32	Mangal Samāchār, ...	Beswan, ...	" 1st	" 6th
33	Mufid-i-Am, ...	Agra, ...	" 1st	" 7th
34	Allygurh Institute Gazette, ...	Allygurh, ...	" 4th	" 7th

ALLAHABAD :  
The 11th November, 1870. }

SOHAN LAL,  
Offg. Govt. Reporter, Vernacular Press,  
Upper India.